30 August 1999

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Committee on Conferences
Substantive session

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Koji F. X. **Yamagiwa** (Japan)

I. Calendar of conferences and meetings

A. Matters related to, and inter-sessional departures from, the approved calendar for 1999

Introduction and overview

1. In its resolution 53/208 A of 18 December 1998, the General Assembly had approved the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1999 as submitted by the Committee on Conferences to the Assembly at its fifty-third session[1] and amended by subsequent decisions taken by the Assembly during that session.

2. At its 373rd meeting, on 26 August 1994, the Committee had decided that requests for inter-sessional departures submitted to the Committee should, in future, be reviewed by the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretariat, for subsequent action.

3. At its 379th meeting, on 23 March 1995, the Committee had agreed that proposed changes to the calendar that did not have programme budget implications could be dealt with by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee.

4. At its substantive session of 1995, the Committee had decided that requests for inter-sessional departures submitted to the Committee that involved a change of venue should be referred to the members for approval. Departures that involved other types of changes should, as the Committee had decided at its substantive session of 1994, be reviewed by the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretariat, for subsequent action.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 32*, annexes I and IV.

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5. The nature of the requests for a change of venue submitted in 1999 and the action taken by the Committee are as follows:

Organ	*Request*	*Action taken*
Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters	To convene its thirty-third session from 20 to 22 January 1999 at Geneva rather than New York so as to give members an opportunity to confer with participants in the Conference on Disarmament. Moreover, the Geneva venue would enable members, in their capacity as Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, to carry out their role of overseeing the Institute in close contact with its offices and personnel	Request approved
International Civil Service Commission	To convene its forty-ninth session, from 12 to 30 April 1999 at Geneva, rather than New York, since the Commission last met at Geneva in 1990, and considering that it is the headquarters of almost half of the common system organizations it is important for the Commission to meet at Geneva from time to time	Request approved
Expert group meeting on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia	To convene in April 1999 at Geneva, rather than New York, since a comparison of the travel and per diem costs between the two venues proves that Geneva is more cost-effective given that the experts would be travelling from Central Asia	Request approved
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development meeting of governmental experts of landlocked and transit-developing countries, representatives of donor-countries and financial development institutions	To convene in New York from 23 to 26 August 1999, rather than Geneva, to ensure adequate participation, since only a very limited number of landlocked and transit developing countries have missions at Geneva but virtually all of them are represented in New York	Request approved
United Nations Environment Programme/High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials	To convene at Bonn on 1 November 1999, rather than Nairobi, in conjunction with the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, from 25 October to 5 November 1999, pursuant to Governing Council decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997, which states that the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials shall meet at least once a year at Nairobi. Meetings of the Committee may be convened elsewhere by its Chairperson, in consultation with its Bureau, in connection with major international environmental meetings	Request approved